

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CTME-00 ITC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 FMC-02 L-03
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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, BF

SUBJECT: PAYMENT OF SPECIAL TONNAGE TAXES AND LIGHT DUES

REF: NASSAU 1396

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO REFTTEL, US CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS REQUESTED THROUGH DEPARTMENT THAT EMBASSY CONTACT GCOB DIRECTOR OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND RECOMMEND THAT GCOB PROVIDE EMBASSY OR DEPARTMENT WITH DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONTAINING FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE WORDING: QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS ASSURES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT NO DISCRIMINATING DUTIES OF TONNAGE OR IMPOST ARE IMPOSED OR LEVIED IN PORTS OF THE BAHAMAS UPON VESSELS WHOLLY BELONGING TO CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, OR UPON THE PRODUCE, MANUFACTURES, OR MERCHANDISE IMPORTED INTO THE BAHAMAS IN SUCH VESSELS FROM THE UNITED STATES. NO SUCH DISCRIMINATION.
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ATING DUTIES OR IMPOSTS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS. UNQUOTE.

2. FYI: NORMALLY, A COUNTRY ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE PETITIONS CUSTOMS VIA STATE AND REQUESTS TO BE PLACED ON THE CFR TITLE 19 SEC. 4.22 LIST AS BEING EXEMPT FROM THE

SPECIAL TONNAGE TAX AND LIGHT DUES. IF COUNTRY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST US VESSELS, REQUEST IS GRANTED AND COUNTRY ENTERED ON LIST. IN THIS INSTANCE WHEN BAHAMAS WERE PART OF THE UK, BLANKET EXEMPTION WAS PROVIDED. HOWEVER, SINCE INDEPENDENCE, GCOB HAS NEVER REQUESTED EXEMPTION AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SAY THAT WITH THE BAHAMAS NOT ON THE SEC.4.22 LIST, DUES AND TAXES CAN LEGALLY BE LEVIED. SINCE GCOB DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST US VESSELS, THEY SHOULD AS A PRO FORMA MATTER THUS REQUEST EXEMPTION. THE REASON FOR THE 2 YEAR PERIOD IS THAT IF TAXES AND DUES HAVE BEEN PAID BY THE GCOB AND DURING THIS PERIOD THE GCOB DID NOT DISCRIMINATE, THEN GCOB COULD RECOUP CERTAIN OF THESE PAYMENTS. END FYI. VANCE

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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